

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 21 and 25 are amended; and claims 5 and 26 are canceled.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 9-10 and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent Application No. 2005/0201396 to Sindhu et al. (Sindhu). Applicants have canceled claim 26 and respectfully traverse this rejection of claims 1-4, 9-10 and 21-25.

Applicants respectfully submit that this Amendment should be entered for at least one of the following reasons. Applicants believe the final rejection is premature for the reasons identified in the December 19, 2006 Petition to Withdraw Finality. Applicants also consider this Amendment to be proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because, for the reasons discussed below, (1) the amendments to the claims are directed to amending independent claims 1 and 21 to recite allowable subject matter, and which place claims 1-4, 6-21 and 25 in condition for allowance; and (2) all of the pending claims 1-4 and 6-25 are in condition for allowance.

I. Independent Claim 1 and Dependent Claims 2-4 and 6-20

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 5-8 and 11-20 contain allowable subject matter, and that these claims would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants note that there are no pending 35 U.S.C. §112 rejections.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features recited in allowable claim 5, and have canceled claim 5. Amended independent claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended the dependency of claims 6 and 25 to make them dependent to allowable independent claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-4, 6-20 and 25 are allowable because of the dependency of these claims to allowable

independent claim 1 as well as additional features these claims recite. For at least these reasons, the §102(e) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-20 and 25 should be withdrawn.

II. Independent Claim 21

Applicants have amended independent claim 21 to include features similar to those recited in allowable claim 5 (now canceled). Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment of independent claim 21 to include features similar to those recited in allowable dependent claim 5 places claim 21 in condition for allowance. For at least these reasons, the §102(e) rejection of claim 21 should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully note that the features recited in amended independent claim 21 are similar to, but are not the same as the features recited in allowable independent claim 1. Allowable independent claim 1 is directed to an input processing circuit and amended independent claim 21 is directed to an output processing circuit.

III. Independent Claim 22 and Dependent Claims 23-24

Sindhu does not disclose an electronic control unit having the features as recited in claim 22, of,

an input processing circuit including a plurality of processing circuits which execute predetermined processing for each of the plurality of input signals and supply the processed input signals to the operation processing section, and to which each of the plurality of input signals are able to be input in common; and

selection means which selects at least one of the plurality of processing circuits for the input signals and inputs the input signals to the selected processing circuit.

Applicants note that aspects of these features are very similar to what was recited in allowable claim 5. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Sindhu should be withdrawn.

Applicants also respectfully submit that dependent claims 23 and 24 are allowable because of the dependency of these claims to allowable independent claim 22 as well as

additional features these claims recite. Accordingly, the §102(e) rejection of claims 23 and 24 should be withdrawn.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully note that the features recited in independent claim 22 are similar to, but are not the same as the features recited in allowable independent claim 1. Claim 22 is directed to an electronic control unit for performing operation processing of a plurality of input signals and includes the feature of a selection means. In contrast, allowable independent claim 1 is directed to an electronic control unit for performing operation processing of an input signal and includes the feature of a processing switch section.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-4 and 5-25 are earnestly solicited.

Applicants also respectfully submit that in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, no restriction requirement should be issued for claims 21-25.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:RMJ

Date: January 19, 2007

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